

# Matthews Electroplating

Roanoke County, Virginia  
Superfund Program Site Fact Sheet

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**Type of Facility:** Former Electroplating and Bumper Repair

**Contaminants:** Chromium, Nickel, and Cadmium

**Funding:** Fund Financed

## Site Description and History

Matthews Electroplating is in Roanoke County, two miles southwest of Salem, Virginia. Bumper repair and plating was done at the site from 1972 until the owner went bankrupt in 1977. Electroplating waste was discharged directly on the ground and drained into a nearby sinkhole. Between 1975 and 1982, the Virginia State Water Control Board (SWCB) found contamination from metals (chromium, nickel, cyanide and other pollutants) in some residential water supply wells just west (down gradient) of the site.

In 1977, the SWCB ordered the new buyer of the site to install a clay cap and to construct surface water diversion ditches at the site. The site was proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL) in October 1981 and listed in September 1983.

A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was conducted in 1982 and 1983. The preferred cleanup option recommended by the study and selected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State, was to provide an alternate source of potable water to the affected homes. Water was supplied by a water main extended from the nearby Salem Water Treatment Plant. In 1987, an EPA contractor sampled the home wells, and collected and analyzed soil samples from the site. The results showed no further cleanup action was needed.

Based on the results of the 1987 investigations, EPA proposed, and the State concurred, to delete the Matthews site from the NPL. EPA and the State determined that the Matthews site no longer posed a significant threat to human health or the environment, and no further action under Superfund was needed. The site was formally deleted from the NPL in January 1989.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) monitored the site for three years after NPL deletion, during the operations and maintenance phase. The purpose of long-term monitoring was to monitor the continued success of the remediation. EPA and the State of Virginia completed the close out report in 1993, which relieved the state from future obligations at the site.

### **Threats and Contaminants**

Ground water was contaminated with chromium residues from the former electroplating operations. Soil was contaminated with chromium, nickel, and cadmium. Those who accidentally ingested or came in direct contact with the contaminated ground water or soils were at risk.

### **Current Status**

The EPA conducted a five-year review of the site in April 1999. Because the county changed the zoning for the site from industrial to residential, EPA conducted soil sampling in September 1999 to ensure that the remedy is still protective. EPA determined that the remedy was protective for residential use of the property, and VDEQ concurred.

### **Community Relations**

Throughout the project, EPA and the State maintained a community relations program that included meetings with local officials, press conferences, public consultations, fact sheets, and interim reports on the status of the project. The local citizens exhibited an active interest in having their concerns heard.

<b>VDEQ Representative</b>	<b>Information Repository</b>
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